The project which is being funded by the Department of Chemical and Petrochemicals is being implemented with the support of concerned research organizations namely Tocklai Experimental Station, Jorhat, Central Coffee Research Institute, Chikmagaloor, Indian Cardamom Research Institute (Spice Board) Myaldumpara, UPASI Tea Research Foundation, Coimbatore, Punjab State Council for Science and Technology, Chandigarh, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Kalyani, Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology, Gurgaon, Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow and the NGOs namely Neem Foundation, Nagpur, Vivekananda Institute of Biotechnology, Nimpith.

Regional Network of Pesticide for Asia and Pacific (RENPAP) is coordinating the implementation of the Project. The outlay for Phase II of the Neem project is Rs. 6.14 crores. The project period is 36 months.

The project also aims at stabilizing the product and carry out toxicological screening to establish a scientific basis for standardization of neem based pesticides so that the possibility of commercialization of the product by industry can be explored.

Import of fertilizers

1393. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether import of fertilizer becomes cheaper than setting up new fertilizer plants if the gas price as delivered is more than 5 dollar/(MMBTU); and

(b) if not, the prohibitive price of gas beyond which import becomes cheaper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The import price of urea varies in the international market, based on international demand supply scenario. It is estimated that new urea plants in the country will be competitive in the domestic market *vis-a-vis* imported urea, if the delivered price of gas is up to US$ 5 per MMBTU. The delivered price of gas beyond this price, may make the new investment in this sector un-competitive. However, the price of gas beyond which import becomes cheaper will depend upon prices of urea prevailing in the international market at any given point of time.

LNG based urea plants

1394. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to switch over the existing FO/LSHS/ Naphtha based urea producing units in the country to natural gas/LNG based ones;

(b) if so, the details thereof, unit-wise;